

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 260183  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 260183

NODIS  
WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT LONDON 17909 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 31 OCT 77

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17909

NODIS

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS USUN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PGOV, US, UK, SF  
SUBJECT: US-UK COOPERATION ON SOUTH AFRICA

1. HMG WITH RELUCTANCE AND MISGIVINGS HAS AGREED TO GO  
ALONG WITH OUR SOUTH AFRICA RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT CABINET MEMBERS AND  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE ESPECIALLY TROUBLED ON TWO  
POINTS:

2. FIRST, THE CALLAGHAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT A  
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PAGE 02 STATE 260183

CHAPTER SEVEN DETERMINATION, NO MATTER HOW NARROWLY  
DEFINED, DOES IN FACT PUT THE UK AT THE TOP OF A SLIP-  
PERY SLOPE. WE SUSPECT THE BRITISH FEAR THAT IN THE  
MONTHS AHEAD THE UNITED STATES, IN AN EFFORT TO MODERATE  
EXTREME DEMANDS BY THE AFRICANS, WILL PROPOSE MORE  
STRINGENT MEASURES (E.G., ON NEW INVESTMENTS) WHICH  
PIECEMEAL WOULD TAKE US TOWARD A CHAPTER SEVEN DETER-

MINATION ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. THE BRITISH NOW FEEL THEY MAY HAVE TO DRAW A LINE AND VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE WE DO. HMG IS DISTURBED BY THE PROSPECT OF ACTING OUT OF CONCERT WITH US AND ANXIOUS ABOUT THE STRAINS THIS MIGHT CAUSE ON THE OVERALL US-UK RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, AND ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THEIR OWN CONSIDERABLE INTERESTS IN BLACK AFRICA.

3. SECOND, THIS APPREHENSION HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY WHITEHALL'S VIEW OF HOW OUR RESOLUTION WAS MANAGED THIS PAST WEEK. WE UNDERSTAND CABINET MEMBERS HERE ARE IRRITATED THAT SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND LONDON WERE VIRTUALLY PRECLUDED BY WIDESPREAD LEAKS TO THE AMERICAN PRESS AND BY INFORMAL CIRCULATION TO THE AFRICANS OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS. THERE IS PROBABLY A SUSPICION BY SOME THAT THE UK COULD HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED BY THE US INTO A POSITION AS A POTENTIAL FALL GUY AND THAT THE US IN THE END HAD LITTLE REGARD FOR OR SENSITIVITY TO THE MAJOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DILEMMA IN WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF ON SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUES.

4. WE ARE CONCERNED BY THIS NEW CLOUD OVER THE CLOSE US-UK COOPERATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED OUR JOINT APPROACH TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH SIMILAR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 260183

IN MANY RESPECTS, AMERICAN INTERESTS AND BRITISH INTERESTS IN THAT UNHAPPY REGION ALSO DIFFER, AND IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT THERE MAY BE A PARTING OF THE WAYS IN THE UNITED NATIONS. RECOGNIZING THAT POSSIBILITY, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO LIMIT MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD AND TO CONSULT CLOSELY AND CANDIDLY WITH THE BRITISH AS WESTERN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA MOVE INTO A NEW PHASE. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO DAVID OWEN TO HELP CLEAR THE AIR. IT WOULD REASSURE HMG OF OUR CONTINUING DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER ON OUR STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND COULD SUGGEST EITHER THE SECRETARY OR PERHAPS AMBASSADOR YOUNG GET TOGETHER WITH OWEN SOON TO DISCUSS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

BREWSTER UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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